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Innovation Counsel LLP 21771 Stevens Creek Blvd Ste. 200A Cupertino, CA 95014			BRIGGS, NATHANAEL R	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see page 12, filed 03 March 2010, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-15 and 31-32 under 35 USC § 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive, particularly in that the filing and publishing dates of Lin do not qualify for prior art under 102(a), 102(e) or 103. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of additional prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9, and 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurauchi et al. (US 6,323,921) in view of Sawasaki et al. (US 6,836,308), and further in view of Nakajima et al. (US 6,317,187), and in further view of Lin et al. (US 2003/0156237).

4. Regarding claim 1, Kurauchi discloses an LCD (see figure 5A-C, and 7, for instance), having a first panel including: a first transparent substrate (32) having a pixel area (G); a thin film transistor (24, 27, 29a-b) disposed at the pixel area (G) so as to output a pixel voltage; a first color filter (7b) disposed at the pixel area (G), the first color filter (7b) having a first edge (portion to the right of the pixel electrode 28); a second

Art Unit: 2871

color filter (6b) disposed adjacent to the first color filter (7b) and having a second edge; the first edge and the second edge being overlapped (see figure 5B) to provide an overlapped area between the first color filter (7b) and the second color filter (6b); a spacer (9b) disposed on the overlapped area between the first color filter (7b) and the adjacent second color filter (6b), the spacer (9b) having a same material as one of the first color filter (7b) and the second color filter (6b); and a pixel electrode (28) disposed on the first color filter (7b) so as to receive the pixel voltage; a second panel (column 4, lines 52-62) including: a second transparent substrate (column 4, lines 52-62); and a common electrode (column 4, lines 52-62) disposed on the second transparent substrate (column 4, lines 52-62), and a liquid crystal layer (column 4, lines 52-62) disposed between the first (32) and second (column 4, lines 52-62) panels, and wherein an opening (23) is formed through each of the first color filter (7b) and the second color filter (6a; see figure 5A) to partially expose the thin film transistor, and the pixel electrode (28) is electrically connected to the thin film transistor (24, 27, 29a-b) through the opening (23). However, Kurauchi does not expressly disclose a transparent spacer on the common electrode, the transparent spacer contacting with an end portion of the spacer, a light blocking pattern formed on the second transparent substrate, wherein the common electrode has the light blocking pattern formed thereon, a protruding portion of the common electrode protruded by the light blocking pattern making contact with an end portion of the spacer, or a light visual angle pattern disposed between the second transparent substrate and the common electrode and formed at a position corresponding to the pixel area so as to widen a visual angle of an image displayed by

Art Unit: 2871

the liquid crystal display apparatus, the light visual angle pattern including a same material as the light blocking pattern.

5. Regarding claim 1, Sawasaki discloses an LCD (see figure 30, for instance), having a spacer formed of overlapping color filters (R, G, B) and a transparent spacer (54) on the common electrode (52), the transparent spacer (54) contacting with an end portion of the spacer (composed of R, G, B filters at the overlap).

6. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the transparent spacer of Sawasaki in the LCD of Kurauchi. The motivation for doing so would have been to reduce manufacturing costs and increase production yield, while increasing luminance and display characteristics, as taught by Sawasaki (column 4, lines 59-63; column 16, lines 52-56).

7. Regarding claim 1, Nakajima discloses an LCD (see figure 10B, for instance) having a light blocking pattern (18) formed on the second transparent substrate (2) wherein the common electrode (10) has the light blocking pattern (18) formed thereon (column 10, lines 53-61), a protruding portion of the common electrode protruded by the light blocking pattern making contact with an end portion of the spacer (8).

8. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the light blocking pattern of Nakajima in the LCD of Kurauchi. The motivation for doing so would have been to suppress the floating of a wholly black state due to light leakage through the spacer, as taught by Nakajima (column 10, lines 45-52).

Art Unit: 2871

9. Regarding claim 1, Lin discloses an LCD (see figures 6A-6C, for instance) having a light visual angle pattern (111) disposed between the second transparent substrate (102) and the common electrode (112) and formed at a position corresponding to the pixel area (126) so as to widen a visual angle of an image displayed by the liquid crystal display apparatus, the light visual angle pattern including a same material as the light blocking pattern (see paragraphs [0034]-[0036]).

10. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the visual angle pattern of Lin in the LCD of Kurauchi. The motivation for doing so would have been to further increase alignment precision and stability of the liquid crystal molecules, as taught by Lin ([0035]). Claim 1 is therefore unpatentable.

11. Regarding claim 2, Kurauchi in view of Sawasaki and in further view of Nakajima and in further view of Lin discloses the LCD of claim 1 (see Kurauchi figure 5A-C, and 7, Sawasaki figure 30, and Nakajima figure 10B, for instance), and Kurauchi further discloses wherein the first color filter (7b) comprises a red, green, and a blue color filter (R, G, B) and the spacer comprises at least one of a red, green, and blue filter. Claim 2 is therefore unpatentable.

12. Regarding claims 3, 5, 7, and 9, Kurauchi in view of Sawasaki and in further view of Nakajima and in further view of Lin discloses the LCD of claim 1 (see Kurauchi figure 5A-C, and 7, Sawasaki figure 30, and Nakajima figure 10B, for instance), and Kurauchi further discloses the LCD including a light blocking pattern (25) in the form of a lattice-shape of a photo-sensitive pattern, where the pattern blocks light incident between the

Art Unit: 2871

pixel area (28) and an adjacent pixel, and Nakajima further discloses wherein the light-blocking pattern (18) is disposed on the second panel (2) on the common electrode (10). Claims 3, 5, 7, and 9 are therefore unpatentable.

13. Regarding claim 31, Kurauchi in view of Sawasaki and in further view of Nakajima and in further view of Lin discloses the LCD of claim 1 (see Kurauchi figure 5A-C, and 7, Sawasaki figure 30, and Nakajima figure 10B, for instance)), and Kurauchi further discloses wherein the spacer (9b) has a column shape, the spacer (9b) being configured to maintain a cell gap between the first substrate (32) and the second substrate. Claim 31 is therefore unpatentable.

14. Regarding claim 32, Kurauchi in view of Sawasaki and in further view of Nakajima and in further view of Lin discloses the LCD of claim 1 (see Kurauchi figure 5A-C, and 7, Sawasaki figure 30, and Nakajima figure 10B, for instance), and Sawasaki further discloses wherein the common electrode makes direct contact with the spacer (9b). Claim 32 is therefore unpatentable.

15. Claims 4, 6, 8, 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurauchi et al. (US 6,323,921) in view of Sawasaki et al. (US 6,836,308), in further view of Nakajima et al. (US 6,317,187), and in further view of Lin et al. (US 2003/0156237), as applied to claims 3, 5, 7, and 9, and further in view of Yamada (US 6,140,988).

16. Regarding claims 4, 6, 8, 10-11, 13, and 15, Kurauchi in view of Sawasaki and in further view of Nakajima and in further view of Lin discloses the LCD of claims 1-3, 5, 7, and 9 (see Kurauchi figures 5A-C and 7; Sawasaki figure 30; Nakajima figure 10B, for

Art Unit: 2871

instance), and Kurauchi further discloses wherein the LCD has a liquid crystal layer and light visual pattern on the common electrode. However, Kurauchi in view of Sawasaki and in further view of Nakajima and in further view of Lin fails to specifically disclose the liquid crystal molecules being vertically aligned.

17. Regarding claims 4, 6, 8, 10-11, 13, and 15, Yamada discloses an LCD apparatus where the liquid crystal molecules being vertically aligned (col. 1, lines 29-39).

18. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the liquid crystal molecules being vertically aligned since one would be motivated to provide a display apparatus with high contrast and outstanding viewing angle characteristics (col. 1, lines 39-45). Claims 4, 6, 8, 10-11, 13, and 15 are therefore unpatentable.

19. Regarding claims 12 and 14, Kurauchi in view of Sawasaki and in further view of Nakajima and in further view of Lin and in further view of Yamada discloses the LCD as recited above (see Kurauchi figures 5A-C and 7; Nakajima figure 10D, for instance), and Sawasaki further discloses the second panel further comprising transparent spacers (54) disposed on the common electrode (52), as elucidated in the rejection of claim 1. Claims 12 and 14 are therefore unpatentable.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NATHANAEL R. BRIGGS whose telephone number is

Art Unit: 2871

(571)272-8992. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 AM - 5:30 PM Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on (571) 272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nathanael R Briggs/
Examiner, Art Unit 2871
5/27/2010